

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00652 160603Z

20

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 DRC-01 /076 W
----- 004727

R 151530Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4510

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0652

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO BE OCTOBER 19

REF: BUJUMBURA 570

1. UPRONA PARTY NATIONAL CONGRESS IS TO MEET OCTOBER 19, 1974, TO
ELECT PARTY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHO WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME
PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI FOR SEVEN YEARS.

2. MODALITIES OF THE ELECTION, INCLUDING DEFINITION OF DELEGATES TO
UPRONA'S NATIONAL CONGRESS AND VOTING PROCEDURES, ARE SET FORTH IN
OCTOBER 8 DECREE SIGNED BY MICHEL MICOMBERO ACTING AS PRESIDENT OF THE

REPUBLIC. THEN, AS SECRETARY OF THE PARTY, MICOMBERO ISSUED A DECISION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECREE WHICH DEFINES CERTAIN DELEGATES MORE
PRECISELY, FOR EXAMPLE, MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC

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(THE FORMAL INSTITUTION THROUGH WHICH THE MILITARY EXERTS

INFLUENCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT). TEXT OF THESE DOCUMENTS
BEING POUCHED.

4. COMMENT: NEW MOVES RECONFIRM STILL MORE EXPLICITLY THAT
THE DESIGNATION OF THE UPRONA SECRETARY GENERAL (AND HENCE
PRESIDENT OF BURUNDI) BY THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONGRESS WILL
BE ESSENTIALLY A QUASI-PUBLIC SPECTACLE IN WHICH SOLE-CANDIDATE
MICOMBERO IS "REELECTED" BY THOSE WHOM HE HAS JUST APPOINTED AS
CONGRESS MEMBERS. THE PROVISION OF THE ELECTORAL DECREE THAT STATES
THAT ANY MURUNDI "OF A CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVITY" MAY BE DESIGNATED
AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS ALLOJU MICOMBERO TO LOAD THE
CONGRESS WITH PEOPLE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE WHO WILL GIVE

PSEUDO-REPRESENTATIONAL CHARACTER TO THE PROCEEDINGS.

5. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT CABINET WILL FORMALLY RESIGN AFTER THE
"REELECTION," AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT CHANGES IN HIGH POSTS WILL
THEN OCCUR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE TIMING FOR DELIVERY CONGRATULATORY
MESSAGE "ON RENEWAL OF MICOMBERO'S MANDATE" WOULD BE MONDAY,
OCTOBER 21. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE REFTEL ASAP TO PERMIT TIMELY
PREPARATION IF WE INTEND GO AHEAD.
MARK

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Message Attributes

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